(ii) Integration of Leprosy Services with General Health Care System in the country for better out-reach and utilization of services by community.

(iii) Early Leprosy Case Detection and Free Multi Drug Therapy to all patients through all Government Primary Health Centres, Dispensaries and Hospitals in the country.

(iv) Intensified Public Awareness Campaigns through Mass Media as well as local media at periphery.

(v) Training of General Health Care Staff in leprosy and in disability prevention and Care.

(vi) Prevention of Deformities and Care.

Government has set a target of achieving leprosy elimination level *i.e.* Prevalence Rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 population at the national level by the end of 2005.

Non supply of essential drugs to the poor

2128. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that poor patients at AIIMS, Safdarjung and RML are not getting essential medicines and they are compelled to purchase the medicines from the open market; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, the action taken by the Government and the rules framed in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The essential medicines including life saving medicine are being provided free of cost to the indoor needy patients at AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. RML Hospital.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

New Medical Colleges

2129. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Medical Association has decided to start medical colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details of medical colleges proposed to be opened in different parts of the country, State-wise; and

(c) whether proposed colleges are going to be opened in private sector or in the Government sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Any person who desires to establish a new medical college has to submit a proposal to the Central Government for permission to establish a new Medical College as per the provision of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, as amended and the regulation made thereunder. No such proposal has been received from Indian Medical Association.

Injectible Contraceptives for women

2130. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the demand made by various women organizations and women activists, Government have banned injectible contraceptives in the family planning programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that the proposed injectible contraceptive have many side effects;

(c) if so, how Government are thinking of introducing this in the family planning programme; and

(d) whether it is a fact that US Food and Drug Administration has declared injectible contraceptive, Depo Provera, as not good and put it in the "Black Box"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Injectible contraceptives are not included in the Family Welfare Programme of Government of India.

(b) Injectible contraceptives preparation are hormonal in nature, therefore, they are likely to cause in some women menstrual irregularities,